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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
CD NO.

COUNTRY	North Korea	DATE OF INFORMATION	1950
SUBJECT	Political; Military	DATE DIST.	15 Sep 1950
HOW PUBLISHED	Monthly periodical		
WHERE PUBLISHED	Seoul	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE PUBLISHED	Jan 1950	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
LANGUAGE	Korean		

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SOURCE Pukhan T'ongsin

FAILURE OF COMMUNIST SCHEME FORCES CLOSING OF KANGDONG POLITICAL TRAINING SCHOOL

Why did Kim Il-song order the closing of the Kangdong Political Training School? Is it an indication of a possible rupture within the Communist camp? To answer these questions, let us first look into the history and nature of this once-powerful guerrilla training school.

The Kangdong Political Training School was opened in Kangdong-kun, P'yongan Namdo, in August 1947, by Kim Il-song. The nature of this institution was a closely guarded secret at first.

Here is the background: The USSR sent special instructions to Kim Il-song in June 1947 to begin extensive training of guerrillas and secret operatives to be sent to South Korea for infiltration and sabotage. Militarily, the USSR wanted the People's Army to establish its second front in South Korea; politically, the USSR wished to drive the UNCOK from South Korea by making its position there intolerable and eventually forcing it to abandon South Korea in great embarrassment, as a result of constant disturbances.

Kim Il-song, receiving the secret order from Moscow, hastily called a secret conference with Ho Ka-i, vice-chairman of the North Korean Labor Party, Pak Hon-yong, chairman of the South Korean Labor Party, Kim Sam-yong, etc., to discuss methods of executing the Moscow order. After numerous conferences, Kim Il-song decided to open a guerrilla-training center in Kangdong-kun, and placed the direct responsibility of guerrilla training on Pak Hon-yong and Kim Sam-yong. Kim Il-song and Ho Ka-i assumed general responsibility for the plan. Soviet Ambassador Shtikov was named advisor and overseer. Special training officers of the Soviet Army were appointed instructors. Training of the first inductees began in September. They were composed of about 600 men recruited in South Korea from among the members of the South Korean Labor Party, Democratic-Patriot Youth Corps, and jobless vagrants from the streets.

The training of the first inductees was completed in March 1948. In April they were sent to the T'aebaek mountain area in South Korea at night, by the guerrilla infiltration route linking Hwach'on, Yanggu, Inje, in Kangwon Do. Thereafter, during the period through September 1949, as many as

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2,000 guerrillas were put through training at this school and were thrown into South Korea. These guerrillas were directly responsible for the Yosu-Sunch'on incident and the chain of destructive activities that followed in Kangwon Do and Kyongsang Pukto.

However, the effects of these guerrilla disturbances in South Korea were something that the USSR and the puppet regime had never anticipated. The people of South Korea, who suffered most from the guerrilla rampages, became more resentful of the guerrillas and the Communists in general, instead of being won over to support the guerrillas or revolt directly against the South Korean government. The guerrillas' failure to win over the South Korean people and obtain popular sympathy and support was due to their unnecessary "side activities," such as looting, raping, kidnapping, burning homes and even killing innocent people.

Consequently, Communist propaganda aimed at spreading the impression that the disturbances in South Korea were due to revolts by the people against the South Korean government fell upon deaf ears. Meanwhile, the UNCOK report to the Fourth UN General Assembly thoroughly exposed the nature of the Kangdong Political Training School and the Soviet scheme behind it. This situation forced the USSR to order Kim Il-song to close the school immediately. The school thus ended its existence in October 1949, 2 years after its opening.

Moscow tried to place the entire blame for the improper training of the guerrillas on Kim Il-song, but the responsibility was passed on to Pak Hon-yong and Kim Sam-yong, who eventually received party punishments by decision of the Political Committee of the North Korean Labor Party, led by Kim Il-song and his Moscow-educated group.

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